

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (cancelled)

20. (withdrawn) A method of forming a distal tip of a balloon catheter, comprising

a) positioning a proximal end of a tip member and a distal end of a catheter shaft within a lumen of a balloon distal shaft section, so that the proximal end of the tip member is distally apart from the distal end of the catheter shaft; and

b) fusion bonding the balloon distal shaft section to the catheter shaft and the tip member by applying heat to at least a portion of the balloon distal shaft section, to form a balloon catheter distal tip having the tip member proximal end fusion bonded to the balloon distal shaft section and spaced distally apart from the distal end of the catheter shaft.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein step (a) in claim 20 further comprises forming a space between a transverse surface of the distal end of the shaft and a transverse surface of the proximal end of the tip member, and step (b) of claim 20 further comprises heating the balloon distal shaft section so that the balloon material flows into at least a part of the space between the proximal end of the tip member and the distal end of the catheter shaft.

22. (currently amended) A balloon catheter, comprising:

- a) an elongated catheter shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a proximal shaft section, a distal shaft section, and an inflation lumen;
- b) a balloon on ~~[[a]] the distal catheter~~ shaft section, having an inflatable interior which is in fluid communication with the inflation lumen; ~~and~~
- c) a tip member secured to a distal end of the balloon catheter, and having a proximal end spaced distally apart from the distal end of the elongated catheter shaft ~~on a distal end of the catheter having a proximal end and a distal end and disposed distal to the distal end of the elongated catheter shaft;~~ and
- d) a sheath disposed about and secured to the ~~proximal end of the tip member or the elongated catheter shaft and the distal end of the catheter shaft.~~

23. (currently amended) The balloon catheter of claim 22 wherein the balloon includes a distal ~~shaft~~ section disposed about and secured to the distal end of the elongated catheter shaft.

24. (currently amended) The balloon catheter of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 23 wherein the balloon ~~includes a distal shaft section~~ is disposed about and secured to the ~~inner tubular member~~ tip member.

25. (currently amended) A balloon catheter, comprising:

- a) an elongated catheter shaft having an outer tubular member, and an inner tubular member with a guidewire lumen and a distal end, at least a section of the inner tubular member ~~and~~ being disposed in at least a part of the outer tubular member and defining an inflation lumen with the outer tubular member;

b) a balloon on a distal ~~catheter~~ shaft section of the elongated catheter shaft, having a proximal section and a distal section secured to the elongated catheter shaft, and having an interior in fluid communication with the inflation lumen; and

c) a tubular tip member having a proximal end spaced distally apart from disposed distal to the distal end of the inner tubular member and secured to the balloon distal section; and

d) a tubular sheath distally adjacent to the distal end of the balloon distal section, and disposed about and secured to a ~~proximal portion of~~ the tubular tip member ~~and the distal end of the inner tubular member.~~